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THE PIONEER

PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

Our Changing Society - *see page 2*

Registered for posting as a periodical - Category A

DECEMBER 1977

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

NEWS and NOTES

FIRST APPOINTMENT: We are pleased to be able to tell you that Lyn Russell (mentioned on page 4) will be going to the Parish of St. James' Toowoomba in the Diocese of Brisbane, for her first appointment as a Church Army Evangelist. Her Rector will be the Rev. Canon C.E. Thomas. It will be four years since an Officer last worked in that Diocese, when Lyn starts there in February.

FEDERAL OFFICE APPOINTMENT: *As from the 1st February 1978, Captain Brian Mattinson will join the Staff of our Federal Office, as Staff Officer for Church Army Captains in the field, and Administration Officer. Brian has been commissioned for almost 14 years and has held three appointments - 3 years in the parish of East Sydney, 6 years in the Church of England Immigration Department in Sydney, and the last 5 years in the Parish of Campbelltown, N.S.W., with special responsibility for the Minto area.*

ANNUAL VISIT: The Director of the New Zealand Church Army, Captain John Dewdney, and his wife, Margaret, have been in Australia recently, for their annual visit. While here, they were part of the team for the Mission in Kambah and Wanniassa, A.C.T. They have also conducted lectures for all the students and had the opportunity to spend time with their own students in particular.

COLLEGE NEWS: *Thanks to the many who responded to our recent Appeal, there is new carpet in the College Chapel and Lecture Room, and good second-hand carpet down in other areas of the College.*

Some building has been going on too. The efforts of the Principal (the Rev. Graeme MacRobb) and Student, Len Taylor, assisted from time to time by the other Students, have produced a whole new west wall of the dining room, and a walk-in pantry where a passage way used to be.

STAMPS: *We are always grateful for small or large quantities of used stamps - even the common "18 centers". Every little helps and even the common ones are able to be sold.*

Thanks to those who already send in stamps, and especially to those who request that we don't send them a receipt or thank you letter.

CAPTAIN KEVIN CULLEN: The last issue of The Pioneer included an article by Captain Cullen in which he referred to his Cessna aircraft which he uses for missions and other activities. At the present time the Church Army Board is exploring the possibility of establishing him in a new area of Church Army ministry as a Flying Evangelist, who would be available for missions and other short-term ministry over a very wide area. To do this would require a real act of faith as it would be a very costly venture. The needs to be met would include housing, salary, and aircraft and car costs.

This sort of ministry could have special reference to the more isolated areas. However, a base ministry in some strategic place would also be necessary, as Captain Cullen is a married man with two children, so he could undertake only a certain number of mission assignments a year.

Captain Cullen concluded his article in the previous "Pioneer" with these words - "We believe that the Lordship of Jesus Christ must be proclaimed all over this great land of ours and if an aircraft can better achieve this, then we must use one."

Your prayers for God's guidance in all that is involved in deciding about such a venture would be greatly appreciated.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

from BISHOP DONALD SHEARMAN

For the Christian, Christmas is a time of thanksgiving and rejoicing for the coming of the world's Saviour

- *the Saviour, Who by His birth, His life and teaching, death and resurrection, gave a glimpse of the majesty and humility of God;*
- *the Saviour Who guarantees forgiveness to those who repent in faith;*
- *the Saviour Who restores man's broken relationship with his God;*
- *the Saviour Whose way leads to peace and goodwill;*
- *the Saviour Who is friend and brother.*

A very special way of saying "thank you" to God for the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, would be to make a gift this Christmas to Church Army. By reflecting in our giving some of His caring love, some of His generosity and some of His selflessness, we acknowledge our partnership with Church Army in the spreading of His Gospel.

There is much to be done and finance is essential for the work of training Evangelists. Society is sick because of man's rebellion against the Will of God. But there are those who, appalled by the results of man's sinfulness, are looking for a better way. I believe the Christian Evangelist has wonderful opportunities today, but there are too few of them.

The work of Church Army is of very great significance, as it trains, equips and sends Evangelists to preach the Gospel. People who know not the Lord Jesus are brought to know Him, love Him and serve Him. Daily, rebellious selfish people, doing their own thing contrary to God's way, are converted to new life in Christ. Daily, young Australians are saved from drug abuse as they encounter Christ. Daily, there are those claiming forgiveness for the past and the enabling power of the Spirit for today and the years ahead. Daily the faithful are strengthened, encouraged and equipped for their task as witnesses to Christ in the world.

Church Army can only do this work as fellow Christians support them financially. I'm sure you will want to have a part in this by giving your generous donation now.

* *

DONATIONS TO THE CHRISTMAS APPEAL MAY BE SENT IN THE ATTACHED ENVELOPE.

* *

NOTE: Bishop Shearman will be Chaplain and Study Leader at the Church Army Staff Conference, January 21 - 27. Please pray for God's guidance for him in these responsibilities.

CALENDAR OF PRAYER

Following is a suggested Calendar for Prayer for use over a period of 5 days:

MONDAY

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA - The Most Rev. Sir Frank Woods.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD: See names on page 2.

THE SEVEN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD.

FEDERAL OFFICE:

Federal Secretary, Captain R.L. Gwilt, Mrs. Gwilt, Peter, June, Stephen, Andrew & Timothy.

Staff Sister, Sister P.A. Free.

Office Staff, Mrs. L. Brophey, Mrs. E. Burton, Mrs. B. Ellis.

THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES - in Sydney & Newcastle.

THE CHURCH ARMY - in England, U.S.A., Canada, Eastern Africa, New Zealand & The West Indies.

TUESDAY

NEWCASTLE, GRAFTON & GOSFORD BOOKSHOPS

Manager, Captain N.A. Payne, Mrs. Payne Andrea, Mark & Elizabeth.

Bookshop Staff: Mr. I. Lean, Mr. G. Wilson, Mrs. R. Kilner, Mrs. M. Dunn, & voluntary staff.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Captain & Mrs. R. Harris, Glenda and Kerrie.
Sister B.J. Rilatt.

CHILDREN'S HOMES:

Burwood Children's Home, Vic. - Sister N.J. Bridges.
St. George's Homes, Rockhampton, Qld. - The Rev. Captain N. Polgen.

YOUTH WORK:

Sister L. Bullard - St. John's Hostel, Forbes, and St. John's Parish, Forbes.

WEDNESDAY

ABORIGINAL WORK:

Yarrabah, Nth. Qld. - Captain & Mrs. A. Malcolm, Andrew & Ruth.

Enmore/Stanmore Parish & Christ Church St. Laurence - Captain A. Polgen.

INDUSTRIAL EVANGELISM:

Factories at Granville, Cabramatta, Homebush, & Qantas Workshops, N.S.W. - Captain D.O. Quayle.

"ALTERNATIVE CULTURE" GROUPS EVANGELISM: Binna Burra, N.S.W. - Captain J. McKnight.

RETIRED OFFICERS AND WIDOWS:

Mrs. M. Cowland Mrs. C. Fisk
The Rev. & Mrs. A.W. Batley
Sister G.A. Phillpot
Sister M. Pritchard
Sister I.B. Johnson
Sister E.N. Bacon

THURSDAY

PARISH EVANGELISM

NEW SOUTH WALES:

Mayfield - Captain T. Brooks
Riverwood - Sister E. Campbell
Forbes - Captain & Mrs. K. Cullen, Anthony & Belinda
Emmaville - Captain & Mrs. L. Fernance, Faith & Warren
Hurstville - Captain & Mrs. J. Harding
Blacktown - Captain & Mrs. D. Hinchliffe, Andrew & Darren
Kingsford - Captain & Mrs. J. Joy
Campbelltown - Captain & Mrs. B. Mattinson, Andrew, Christopher, Warwick & Stuart
South Hurstville - Sister F. Herman

VICTORIA:

Lara - Captain C. Thiele

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

South Hedland - Captain & Mrs. M. Tobin, Julie, Deborah & Christine

Coming from a small tropical island, where I had been my own boss as headmistress of a school, to the great metropolis of Sydney, and to the role of student again, was quite a challenge. It took me a while to settle down and I even lost my appendix in the process!

To begin with, I was not sure what the training programme would involve. My previous idea of an evangelist was a "Bible basher" or a person who pressurised some-one into turning to Christ. Now I realise that this is not the case. You can share your faith and belief in Jesus in a natural conversation in any situation.

I have gained a lot from the studies we have done at College, and from working in parishes, on missions, at crippled children's camps, and from a special course at a psychiatric hospital.

Now I am looking forward to going out to work in a parish in my home-town of Wellington (N.Z.) next year. My task will be to visit the sick, the flat dwellers and the young families there, with the purpose of encouraging them to become part of the fellowship of the Church.

Twelve years ago I would never have thought that I would become a teacher, work on the mission field, and become a Church Army Officer and Evangelist. You never know what God might call you to do.

Barbara Leatham

Lyn Russell

Barbara Leatham

I became a Christian after a time of real rebellion against God, yet when I asked Jesus into my life, He certainly came in and transformed it. He flooded me with a sense of His love and joy, giving my life meaning and hope. Although I told my family, I did not share this new discovery with my friends at school. However, not long after this Jesus gave me a vision, something that I will never forget and something I would like to share with you, because I believe it has a message for all Christians.

One day I was in my room praying, when in a "vision" I saw this man who had lived down the road from us, but had recently died. I saw him standing before God and then turning around to me and saying: "Wendy, you knew but you never told me!" Then I saw all my friends there, standing before God and turning around and saying, "Wendy, you knew but you never told us!" I began to realise that God had given me this wonderful new life and yet I wasn't even sharing it with those who meant most to me. After that I began to share my faith with my friends and experienced the joy of seeing many of them come to Christ too.

For me, this was the beginning of a very definite call to evangelistic work and so I really praise God for the opportunity that the Church Army has made possible. My training has taught me to trust God more, to be open to new ways of sharing my faith, thus widening my vision. It has given me more confidence in this ministry and also the encouragement of belonging to a wider "family" committed to this task within the Church.

Wendy Woods

Wendy Woods